

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL 11/07/06

Participants: Dave, Dan, Ken, Pete, Hoss, Bill, Kim, Claire, Debbie

1. Proposed additional positions for the IMT1

Reviewed letter that Kim sent out with proposed positions spelled out.

NPS - Dan is ok with the new positions. Could make the 3rd OSC1 an OSC2.

FWS - Ken - Let the IC have the flexibility to fill with an OSC2 if no OSC1 avail. WY State - Hoss. With the complexity's we find ourselves in, it's a good idea to carry an additional OSC. All the suggested new positions make sense. Dave - My only concern is that every time we increase numbers on the teams, we decrease the pool of folks who may go out as individual resources on the other teams. Ken, agrees with Dave but at the same time we have an experienced IC that is telling us what is needed currently. He feels we should go ahead with the IC's recommendations.

Discussed the national standard for IMT1's. In the NMG they list out 27/17 = 44 with an additional 6 trainees, 6 mentees for a total of 56.

These proposed positions would be in our area, within the Rocky Basin. We can't propose it for the national callouts, but we are in agreement that it is OK for the Rocky Basin.

Decision: Approve IMT1 requested positions as submitted by IC.

2. Proposed additional positions for the FUMT

Reviewed letter that Bill sent out with proposed additional positions.

Hoss - In agreement with the proposal. Clarified that we would be approving first within Area, and then out of area. His only concern is with the COMT, as traditionally there have not been enough COMT's to fill current needs.

Dan - What we have been seeing is that fire use fires have really changed in the last few years in as far as they are becoming increasingly complex. If the IC thinks we need additional positions to maintain operations safely, we should go with the recommendation.

Ken - Fires are being managed more and more with the appropriate management response. We are using every tool in the toolbox. There seems to be a natural evolution process of how fire management is going. Maybe someday, we won't really be splitting out Fire Use and Suppression teams, we will just be talking about filling teams. This is a forward looking response from the operations committee.

Dave - Appropriate management response is being discussed nationally and agreements are starting to be worked up.

Decision: Approve FUMT requested positions as submitted by IC.

Encourage RMCG to forward this request to the National Coordinating Group for consideration nationally.

3. Talk about IMT recruitment letter and form.

Talked about processing submitted applications. Pete - In the last 4 years, all of the applications have been populating a database that he and his son created. It has made it very easy to work with all of the applications. Each agency representative enters the applications into the database. It is very user friendly. All on the call recommend that we stay with this process. Pete will send out the instructions to everyone on how to do enter applicants. Thanks to Pete for his efforts in this.

Question from Dan - how did we decide to handle the SD Zone team? Should he talk with Joe and Beth about the process? They have said that they do want to use the process we have in place. Basically the zone operations would gather up the applications and present to ops committee in January meeting, and then we present to the RMCG. There would be time issues with this. There was much discussion from those on the call.

Dave - Our job as ops committee is to prioritize and put people into the vacancies that need them.

Pete - Are they going to use the regional list but not participate in the regional selection? If they are not an area team and don't want to play by area team rules, then why are we doing their work for them?

Kim - Are they available for any RMA and out of area assignments?

Dave - During GPC's PL 1 and 2 they are available to the RMA. We need clarification if that also includes out-of-area. Dan - The SD Governor and political issues come into play.

Kim - In that case the ops committee should be somewhat "hands off" on this. We had better get RMCG's advice in how to proceed. Have some discussion and sort through this, and then maybe in another year engage them. If it comes to the point of safety and team commitment, you might want to have that team available as a third team at all PL's.

Hoss - if we include them in the application process, they need to be added to the "positions utilized" spreadsheet, and possibly the preference area.

Action Item: Dave will talk to Darrell (RMCG chair). We need clarification on their availability and also the application process.

Dave - for the record, we will use the database that Pete put together. Have this work completed the week before the ops committee gets together. All agency representatives will do the input into the database.

Action Item: The IC's with the Ops Chair will meet the morning of January 16th before the full committee gets together and make the first cut, as they have been doing the last few years.

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Question - Bill - Do we want to have a list of vacancies for this year showing with the application package? Kim - I would like to get that information out and try to market ourselves. Dave - This wasn't included in what I sent out, as I was following the protocol from earlier years. If the committee would like this information to go out, we can make that happen.

Kim - Have you received any feedback from people in the past being interested in current vacancies? We have included this info in the Great Basin in years past. It is an easy thing to do, and it might be a good idea to market ourselves this way.

Dan - Also with the new "proposed" positions? Hoss - They won't get approved by the RMCG until December. Bill - We could wordsmith it - "Vacancies are expected to include..."

Dave - Any opposition to changing protocol to include vacancies as another marketing tool? There was no opposition. It will be sent out as a supplement. If the IC's could send Dave the list of vacancies once more, and then Dave will get this out to the ops committee.

Dave - Do we want to network this out nation wide?

Kim - From a T1 IC perspective - YES.

Dan - Other regions are doing it.

Hoss - We could prioritize internally, in that we would look at internal applications before we look at out-of-area applications.

Pete - We are currently using out-of-area resources. The only reason not to network this out nationwide would be if it makes other Gacc's unhappy.

Bill - Look at it the opposite way, if other Gacc's recruit here, then what do we think about that. Do we want them taking our applicants?

Hoss - If we are looking at selecting an individual from out-of-area, then we could get Gacc clearance and make sure that they are not needing that person on any of their teams. Dan - agrees with Hoss. Ken - also agrees with what Hoss and Dan are saying.

Decision - Network out nationwide, and prioritize internally by selecting in area applicants before out-of-area applicants.

4. Prioritize alternates for S420

Reviewed Dave's updated spreadsheet.

Dan - SD is talking about putting on an S420...March 19 - 23 with 4 teams. They have a commitment right now with 2 teams. One of them is an all risk state team. (The veterinarian's All Risk Team). They are trying to get financial commitments now. Trying to put together one FWS, and 2 EMS type teams. Ken - I have a little more information on the FWS team. I talked to Shane DelGrosso about what he is trying to do. It is geared to All

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Risk and includes ND and SD folks. There are some ND folks who have not been able to get into the S420 at Northern Rockies (NRC). 6 people total, mainly OSC and SOF with one logistics. There is not a full FWS team. This is just an effort to bridge the bottleneck with S420 that FWS feels they have. Circumstances aren't allowing them to get into the first choice class. All the people on the list applied the way they were supposed to, in their appropriate Gacc. If they aren't going to be able to get into the NRC class, they are trying to iron out getting them into a different S420 class. Dan - Joe said \$1000/person. Joe's entire purpose of this extra class was to give the non fire people more exposure. It isn't going to be a fire oriented S420 necessarily. Bill - Is this an NWCG sanctioned course with an NWCG certificate? Ken - Also concerned that this may not be a fully qualified course. Dan - I could not get a definitive answer from Beth or Joe that this would be a fully sanctioned NWCG course with a certificate.

Kim - I have been asked by Lynn Barclay if the ops committee followed the process in place historically in making the S420 PIO selections.

Dave did not even know that there was a historical process in place other than our protocols within our operating guide. Hoss - In the past we have asked Lynn and Dave Steinke to go through the applications and help the ops committee prioritize the PIO applicants as the ops committee didn't know who they were. Pete - I talked to Lynn, and this could be the rub, that she was not asked this time. Bill - Recommend that we add in pre-screening in our process. Dave - Agrees with Bill, and we could decide to add this to our protocol process. Basically we have been looking to the IC's to provide that input. Hoss - In the past there was a huge amount of people applying, and it made sense to involve Lynn and Dave to help the operations committee sort this out. However, it was not intended to be a permanent process.

Action item - Discuss this at the next operations committee meeting for possible rework of the S420/S520/S620 Nomination Protocol Process.

Reviewed the spreadsheet for S420 that Dave sent out. Most have been identified and confirmed for the S420 course in January. Kim requested we prioritize the remainder of the personnel in case she has the opportunity to get them into another course. Added a few people that had put in applications on time but the applications had been misplaced. In some cases the alternate priority ranking was re-worked. Dave compiled the results and will send updated version to Kim. We are still short 2 FSC positions.

Discussed the FSC recruiting, from the list compiled at the October meeting. The out-of-area folks had not been contacted until the in-area

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recruiting process was completed. Dave directed Bill and Pete to go ahead and ask their out of area recruits.

5. Assignments

Dave sent the following out in an email just before this call. He would like to get ahead of the game for review and updates of the RMA mob guide and associated operating plans. Reviewed each item below:

Objective: Review of key documents as outlined in the RMA Operation committee Guidelines. Task groups to coordinate review, coordinate language in multiple documents, present proposed changes to the Ops committee at the January 16 -17, 2007 meeting.

Assignments before January meeting:

1. IMT recruitment - Letter, nomination form, distribution, solicitation.
Agency Reps, Blume, Clement
2. Consolidate nomination information, Data Base or spreadsheet?
Agency Reps
3. Develop 5 year IMT succession strategy. Coordinate with RMCG.
Morford, Kerr, Hahnenberg
4. Crews, Mob guide review 22.2, IHC operating plans. Hoss, Greer
5. IMT, Mob guide review 22.9/Ops committee guidelines, IMT SOP's
Eckert, Kleiner, Mullenix, Martin
6. Mob guide review 26 - preparedness plan action items.
Clement, Fletcher
7. Mob Guide 23 - equipment/supplies
Bauer, Robertson
8. RMCG/Ops committee award/plaque for IHC's, Excl Helicopters, ATB
Clement, Carter
9. RMCG letter to NWCG and NAFRI on S520 allocation process
Clement, Martin

6. Highlights of the IHC meeting 11/1,2/2006:

Dave - 25% of the teams are credible as per IHC. Talked about extensive mitigation measures they had to work through in order to do their assignments safely, and unqualified DIVS they had to work with. They would like some sort of formal evaluation form that they could fill out and give to respective teams to pass on their experiences with certain individuals like DIVS, etc. One of the IHC Sups is going to work up a form and submit to the IHC committee.

Ken - has asked to talk to Dave Hamrick on the Alpines about their experiences with FUM fires this season, Little Venus. We approach Fire Use with a different perspective than we do for wildfire. Even within the Fumt community. The Little Venus report is very pointed with this sort of stuff.

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Attitudes as well. That is one reason why we have a Comt go out ahead of us. Communications are a huge problem a lot of times.

7. Awards/Recognition

Dave - He would like to give recognition for RMA primary fire fighting modules. Like an RMCG/Ops committee plaque. For the IHC, ATB facilities, Helitac facilities. This would show our support for them within the region, something that could be hung up on their walls. They would be able to see that RMCG/Ops recognizes and appreciates what they do out there.

Action - Dave will write this up for Dave Carter to present to RMCG for their consideration.

8. Anything else?

Kim - Roger Showman - any progress in getting him in on S520? Dave - At a minimum we need a letter from RMCG to NWCG about the inequity of the slots. We were supposed to get 3 and now its 2. NIMO seems to have dominated.

In 2008 we will have a significant # stepping up to the plate. What will the repercussions be at that time?

Is Darrel going to write a letter? Kim is also concerned that a lot of the folks on the list are not agency folks.

Action - Dave will write something up with Kim's help to present to RMCG for them to send up to the NWCG.

Next meeting is January 16 & 17, 2007 at 1300 with the exception of the IC's, Chair, etc who will meet in the am (0800?) for first cut of applications.